AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A mask assembly for a patient comprising:

a frame;

a cushion provided to the frame; and

a vent assembly including a first vent, a second vent, and a selector to switch the flow of exhaled gas from the patient between the first and second vents.

2. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 1, wherein the first and second vents include at least one characteristic relating to noise and/or flow which are different from one another.

3. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the frame comprises a shell and the vent assembly is provided on the shell.

4. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cushion includes nozzle elements and the selector includes a clip that is slidable with respect to the frame to select between the first and second vents.

5. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is rotatable.

6. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is pivotable.

7. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is slidable.

8. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the frame includes an elbow and the selector is provided on the elbow.

9. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 8, wherein the selector is provided on a depending arm of the elbow.

10. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein one of the first and second vents is provided with a material configured to reduce at least one of noise level and risk of cross-infection.

11. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly of claim 10, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of foam, porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and ceramic.

12. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is adjustable between first and second positions corresponding to the first and second vents, respectively, and the selector includes positioning structure to define the first and second positions.

13. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 12, wherein the positioning structure comprises detents.

14. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 12, wherein the vent assembly is configured to vent exhaled gas even if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

15. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 12, wherein an alarm is sounded if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

16. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 15, wherein the alarm is defined by a higher noise level produced by the vent assembly.

17. (Original) A vent assembly including a first vent, a second vent, and a selector to switch the flow of exhaled gas from a patient between the first and second vents.

18. (Original) The vent assembly of claim 17, wherein the first and second vents include at least one characteristic relating to noise and/or flow which are different from one another.

19. (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 1, wherein the selector is rotatable, pivotable and/or slidable.

20 (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 17, wherein one of the first and second vents is provided with a material configured to reduce at least one of noise level and risk of cross-infection.

21. (Previously Presented) The vent assembly of claim 20, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of foam, porous polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and ceramic.

22. (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 17, wherein the selector is adjustable between first and second positions corresponding to the first and second vents, respectively, and the selector includes positioning structure to define the first and second positions.

23. (Original) The vent assembly of claim 22, wherein the positioning structure comprises detents.

24. (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 22, wherein the vent assembly is configured to vent exhaled gas even if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

25. (Previously Presented) The vent assembly according to claim 22, wherein an alarm is sounded if the vent assembly is not in the first or second positions.

26. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 25, wherein the alarm is defined by a higher noise level produced by the vent assembly.

27. (Withdrawn) A mask assembly for a patient comprising:

a frame;

a cushion provided to the frame; and

a vent assembly including a cylinder at least partially rotably connected to a sleeve, wherein the cylinder includes at least a first aperture and the sleeve includes at least a second aperture, wherein a vent is formed by the convergence of the first and second apertures.

28. (Withdrawn) A vent assembly including a cylinder at least partially rotably connected to a sleeve, wherein the cylinder includes at least a first aperture and the sleeve includes at least a second aperture, wherein a vent is formed by the convergence of the first and second apertures.

29. (Currently Amended) A mask assembly for a patient comprising:

a frame;

a cushion provided to the frame;

a vent assembly provided to the frame having a first vent portion with a first flow capacity and a second vent portion with a second flow capacity different from the first flow capacity, and

a slidable selector to switch the flow of exhaled gas from the patient between the first and second vent portions.

30. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein ~~each of~~ the first vent includes a plurality of first vent holes and the second ~~vents~~ vent includes a plurality of second vent holes.

31. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first and second vents extend from an inner surface of the frame to an outer surface of the frame.

32. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 30, wherein the plurality of first vent holes have a first size and the plurality of second vent holes have a second size smaller than the first size.

33. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 30, wherein a number of the plurality of first vent holes is less than a number of the plurality of second vent holes.

34. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein selection of the second vent reduces flow and/or noise level by about 5-50% as compared to selection of the first vent.

35. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 1, wherein selection of the first vent results in a flow through the first vent of about 45-55 l/min, and selection of the second vent results in a flow through the second vent of about 55-65 l/min.

36. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 30, wherein the vent assembly includes a cylindrical portion having an orifice, and a sleeve portion fitting over the cylindrical portion, the sleeve portion including the first vent holes and the second vent holes, the sleeve portion being rotatable with respect to the cylindrical portion to selectively engage either the first vent holes or the second vent holes with the orifice.

37. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a swivel elbow connected to the frame, the swivel elbow including a shaft having an orifice formed therein, wherein the vent assembly is provided on a sleeve fitting over the shaft, and the sleeve is rotatable with respect to the shaft to selectively engage either the first vent or the second vent with the orifice.

38. (New) The vent assembly according to claim 17, wherein the first vent includes a plurality of first vent holes and the second vent includes a plurality of second vent holes.

39. (New) The vent assembly according to claim 38, wherein the plurality of first vent holes have a first size and the plurality of second vent holes have a second size smaller than the first size.

40. (New) The vent assembly according to claim 38, wherein a number of the plurality of first vent holes is less than a number of the plurality of second vent holes.

41. (New) The vent assembly according to claim 17, wherein selection of the second vent reduces flow and/or noise level by about 5-50% as compared to selection of the first vent.

42. (New) The vent assembly according to claim 17, wherein selection of the first vent results in a flow through the first vent of about 45-55 l/min, and selection of the second vent results in a flow through the second vent of about 55-65 l/min.

43. (New) The vent assembly according to claim 17, further comprising a cylindrical portion having an orifice, and a sleeve portion fitting over the cylindrical portion, the sleeve portion including the first vent and the second vent, the sleeve portion being rotatable with respect to the cylindrical portion to selectively engage either the first vent or the second vent with the orifice.

44. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 29, wherein the first vent portion includes a plurality of first vent holes and the second vent portion includes a plurality of second vent holes.

45. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 44, wherein the plurality of first vent holes have a first size and the plurality of second vent holes have a second size smaller than the first size.

46. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 44, wherein a number of the plurality of first vent holes is less than a number of the plurality of second vent holes.

47. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 29, wherein selection of the second vent portion reduces flow and/or noise level by about 5-50% as compared to selection of the first vent portion.

48. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 29, wherein selection of the first vent portion results in a flow through the first vent portion of about 45-55 l/min, and selection of the second vent portion results in a flow through the second vent portion of about 55-65 l/min.

49. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 29, wherein the vent assembly includes a cylindrical portion having an orifice, and a sleeve portion fitting over the cylindrical portion, the sleeve portion including the first vent portion and the second vent portion, the sleeve portion being slidable as the slidable selector with respect to the cylindrical portion to selectively engage either the first vent portion or the second vent portion with the orifice.

50. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 29, further comprising a swivel elbow connected to the frame, the swivel elbow including a shaft having an orifice formed therein, wherein the vent assembly is provided on a sleeve fitting over the shaft, the sleeve is slidable as the slidable selector with respect to the shaft to selectively engage either the first vent portion or the second vent portion with the orifice.